

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NICOSI 03011 281707Z

71

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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AMEMBASSY BONN

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USNMR SHAPE BEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 3011

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PRESIDENT
SPYROS KYPRIANOU

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD; USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

SUMMAR: NEW HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU DISCUSSES
HIS POLITICAL PLANS AND FOREIGN POLICY ORIENTATION, ASSURING US
THAT HE IS ANTI-COMMUNIST, PRO-AMERICAN AND INTERESTED IN A
CYPRUS SOLUTION. WE TAKE SOME OF THIS WITH A GRAIN OF SALT.
END SUMMARY.

1. I CALLED ON NEW HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PRESIDENT

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 NICOSI 03011 281707Z

SPYROS KYPRIANOU SEPTEMBER 28. HAVING DISPLACED CLERIDES,

KYPRIANOU NOW BECOMES THE SECOND RANKING OFFICIAL IN GREEK CYPRUS. IN THE CYPRIOT CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM AS IT HAS EVOLVED UNDER MAKARIOS OVER SIXTEEN YEARS SINCE

INDEPENDENCE, A HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PRESIDENT CAN HAVE BOTH EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY. IF HE WISHES AND IF THE ARCHBISHOP ALLOWS, HE CAN FUNCTION SOMEWHAT LIKE A PRIME MINISTER. THIS IS OBVIOUSLY KYPRIANOU'S INTENTION, ALTHOUGH HE IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN COMPLETELY DEFERENTIAL TO THE AUTHORITY OF MAKARIOS WHICH WAS SO VIVIDLY RECONFIRMED IN RECENT SEPTEMBER ELECTIONS.

2. KYPRIANOU IS A VERY DIFFERENT KETTLE OF FISH FROM HIS PREDECESSOR, CLERIDES. WHILE THE LATTER WAS CANDID, CONFIDING, SPONTANEOUS AND WARM, KYPRIANOU IS SECRETIVE (EVEN FURTIVE), SUSPICIOUS, STUDIED AND COLD.

3. I CONGRATULATED KYPRIANOU ON THE PREDICTABLE SUCCESS OF HIS PARTY AND HIS OWN INEVITABLE ELECTION AS HOUSE PRESIDENT. I ASKED HIM TO COMMENT ON ANALYSES IN THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS THAT HIS POPULAR FRONT COALITION'S DEPENDENCE ON COMMUNIST VOTES (OF AKEL AND EDEK) LEAVES DEBTS THAT WILL HAVE TO BE PAID. NOTING THAT KYPRIANOU HAD SEVERAL TIMES TOLD ME THIS WOULD NOT BE THE CASE, I WONDERED HOW HE INTENDED TO CONFOUND THESE CRITICS AND PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE COMMUNISTS.

4. KYPRIANOU REPLIED THAT HE HAD ALREADY OPPOSED THE LEFT ON TWO ISSUES: THE EARLY HOLDING OF MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AND DEBATE OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AS FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR THE NEW HOUSE. HE SAID HE WAS IN NO WAY BEHOLDEN TO THE COMMUNISTS. HIS PARTY'S DEPUTIES IN THE HOUSE WERE SOLDILY ANTI-COMMUNIST. AKEL HAD ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE DEMOCRATIC FRONT WOULD HAVE EMERGED AS THE MAJORITY PARTY EVEN WITHOUT ITS SUPPORT.

5. KYPRIANOU GAVE ME HIS OWN VERSION OF THE ELECTORAL SHOWING OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES: AKEL 25 PERCENT, EDEK 12 PERCENT, (KYPRIANOU'S DEMOCRATIC FRONT 35 PERCENT, CLERIDES' DEMOCRATIC

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NICOSI 03011 281707Z

RALLY 23 PERCENT, OF WHICH 15 PERCENT HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO CLERIDES BY EOKA-B, DEK AND THE FAR RIGHT GENERALLY.

6. KYRIANOU SAID HE VIEWED HIS PRIORITY TASK AS THE UTILIZATION OF HIS VICTORY IN THE ELECTIONS TO BUILD A SOLID, ONGOING POLITICAL PARTY OF THE CENTER. HE WANTED AT ALL COSTS TO AVOID THE FACTIONALISM IN THE NON-COMMUNIST CAMP WHICH HAS HISTORICALLY PLAGUED GREEK CYPRIOT POLITICS. HE

INTENDED TO INVITE THE COOPERATION OF INDEPENDENT TASSOS PAPADOPOULOS AND REPUTABLE RIGHTISTS. ULTIMATELY, CLERIDES MIGHT EVEN BE REHABILITATED (A) IF HE WISHED TO CONTINUE IN POLITICS AND (B) WAS PREPARED TO BREAK AWAY FROM THE DISCREDITED PRO-JUNTA, PRO-COUP ELEMENTS WHOSE SUPPORT HE HAD SO MISGUIDELY SOLICITED IN THE ELECTIONS. KYPRIANOU SPOKE WITH MOCK SADNESS OF THE FALL OF CLERIDES, WHO HE DEPICTED AS SOMEONE PREVIOUSLY RESPECTED FOR IDEALISM AND INTEGRITY.

7. KYPRIANOU SAID HE WOULD NOT TRY TO PLACE HIS OWN SUPPORTERS IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTER IN THE SHAKEUP WHICH HE BELIEVED MAKARIOS INTENDED TO MAKE TOWARD THE END OF THE YEAR. HOWEVER, UNDER THE CYPRIOT SYSTEM, THE ARCHBISHOP'S NEW APPOINTMENTS WOULD TEND TO BE INDIVIDUALS SYMPATHETIC TO THE IDEAS OF THE MAJORITY PARTY.

8. IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, KYPRIANOU SAID HE INTENDED TO VISIT ATHENS AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY TO EMPHASIZE THE PRIMACY OF THE HELLENIC BOND. AFTER THAT, HOPEFULLY SOMETIME AFTER THE AMERICAN ELECTIONS HE WAS THINKING OF A VISIT TO THE US TO LAY TO REST ANY SHADOWS OF THE PAST (HIS VOTE ON CHINA) AND TO ATTEST HIS PRO-WESTERN COMMITMENT AND RELIANCE ON THE US IN TERMS OF A CYPRUS SOLUTION. IN DUE COURSE, HE WOULD BE APPROACHING THE USG WITH IDEAS ON HOW WE COULD WORK TOGETHER FOR A CYPRUS SOLUTION. KYPRIANOU SAID HE PERSONALLY FELT THE CYPRUS NEGOTIATION WOULD MARK TIME AT LEAST UNTIL EARLY 1977, AFTER THE US ELECTIONS. HE SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE WELL TO CONCENTRATE OUR EFFORTS IN THE MEANTIME ON PREVENTING A DETERIORATION AND KEEPING OPTIONS OPEN.

9. AT THE CONCLUSION OF OUR CONVERSATION, KYPRIANOU
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NICOSI 03011 281707Z

REITERATED HIS WISH TO WORK CLOSELY AND INFORMALLY WITH THE US AND ITS REPRESENTATIVES. I ASSURED HIM OF OUR COOPERATION.

10. COMMENT: KYPRIANOU IS NOT AN ATTRACTIVE HOUSE PRESIDENT FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF US INTERESTS IN CYPRUS. BUT IT SHOULD PROVE POSSIBLE TO SUSTAIN A VIABLE AND HOPEFULLY AT TIMES PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM. AS OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO LEARN JUST WHAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT THINKS OF HIM. TO THE TURKS, OF COURSE, HE IS ANATHEMA.
CRAWFORD

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